

## [Charlie Weldon]

Interview

Range-lore

Emma D. McAden

Ballinger, Texas Tales - Anecdote (ranch life)

### RANGE-LORE

Ranch Life sixty years ago, as told to me by Mr. Charlie Weldon, born in 1863:

"Well, let's see, I was fifteen years old when I started to work on the O. H. Triangle ranch, owned and run by the Coggins brothers, Sam & Moody. The ranch house was down on the Concho river twelve miles from Fort Chadbourne.

"During the winter months we had horses to break and of course we rode trail some, but the main thing was to have our horses ready for the round-up which started in May. We took turns at guarding the horses, for the Indians were bad to come in and drive them off. Well, in them days we broke C12 - 2/1/[?] - Texas 2 our horses on moonlight nights because somehow we got the idea that they could be tamed and made better cow ponies if broke on those nights.

"Along in the spring of '78 we were starting out on the round-up and the Indians closed in on us from both sides, going to take our horses. I was told to go to the wagons - but not me; truth is, I was afraid to leave the grown men so I stayed with them. The battle was awful, the soldiers came from Fort Chadbourne to help us, and after we had driven

## Library of Congress

the Indians back to the river and every thing was quited quieted down, the soldiers took fourteen bodies from the river, but we didn't lose our horses.

“After the round-up, was the long, hard trip overland to Kansas City to market. That spring we were gone one hundred days, because after we got our cattle up in Oklahoma a train come along and nearly scared them critters to death and they went every direction. It took more'n a week to get them started out again. They was so nervous that the rest of the trip was sure hard; could not make more than five or six miles a day.

“That spring I got my wages raised from \$25.00 a month to \$35.00 a month. So in the fall of '88 I married Sally Chamberlain. We, (her family and me), went in a wagon to Brownwood to get the license. We got all our supplies 3 from Brownwood and always took several wagons and three or four men went on horseback to guard the supplies from the Indians.”

\*\*\*\*\*

REFERENCE:- Charles Weldon, Ballinger, Texas. Interviewed September 28, 1938.